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3329 '99 SEP 17 A9 58

September 14, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket numbers 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P0197 (Egg-borne diseases)

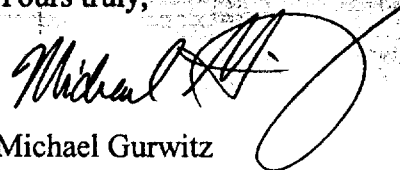
Dear Sir or Madam:

With regard to reducing egg-borne diseases, I urge the FDA to ban the practice of forced molting of hens. This practice, which involves the intentional starvation and water deprivation of hens for up to 14 days, is cruel and inhumane. It is also directly linked to egg-borne diseases. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service found that extended starvation and water deprivation of birds lead to an increased shedding of *Salmonella enteritidis*. Subjecting birds to extended starvation and thirst destroys their immune systems, thus rendering them more susceptible to disease.

The FDA has the necessary authority and jurisdiction to ban farming practices which are injurious to human health. Clearly, forced molting is one such practice. A petition asking the FDA to ban this practice was submitted in April 1998 and should be granted as soon as possible.

Although cruelty to animals should be reason enough to ban forced molting, the threat it poses to human health is clear and present, thus, this disgusting practice should be stopped by the FDA immediately. Thank you.

Yours truly,

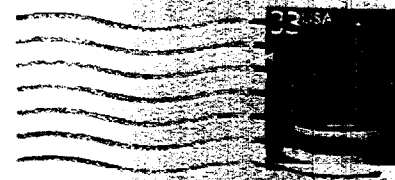


Michael Gurwitz

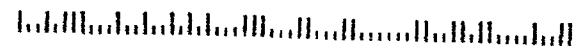
96P-0418

C625

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C625

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C626
96P-0418/C625